

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 18-22 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 18-22 are amended and claims 6 and 14-17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to because of informalities present in the Abstract. A new Abstract is now presented that overcomes the objections. Accordingly, the objections to the specification should not be withdrawn.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for including informalities. The claims have been amended to clarify each of the informalities listed by the Examiner. Accordingly, the claims are now deemed to be definite and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4-7, 13, 16-17 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over WO 01/36750 (Heglund) in view of US 674,379 (Hard).

Claims 2-3, 8-12, 14-15 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Heglund and Hard and further in view of US 3,861,339 (Aida).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief description of the subject matter described in the present application is deemed appropriate to facilitate understanding of the arguments for patentability. The description is not meant to argue unclaimed subject matter.

The present invention relates to a method for assembling a mast for traffic information and lighting. Such masts must both yield when exposed to collision forces and have energy absorbing properties in the event of a collision (see page 1, lines 10-16 of the application as originally filed).

The present invention includes joining three or more extruded elements together along the longitudinal edges thereof, wherein each mast element has a rail 5 along one longitudinal edge and a channel 4 along the opposing longitudinal edge (see page 3, lines 8-11, and Fig. 2 of the application as originally filed). The rail section 5 is inserted into the channel section 4 to form a corner of the mast (see page 3, lines 11-14). The channel section 4 and rail section 5 are clamped together to form a clamped corner 3 using a roller tool (see page 3, lines 14-17). The rollers of the roller tool include knobs 10 to form spot strengthened areas (see Fig. 3). The channel section 4 is provided with inwardly tapered wall sections 4A, 4B spaced apart by a bottom portion 4C (see page 3, lines 18-21). The bottom section 4C is wider than a width of the rail 5 (see page 4, lines 7-12).

Independent claim 1 now recites "providing the channel section with inwardly tapered inner wall sections formed during the extrusion process of forming the extruded mast elements, an inner distance between the wall sections at a bottom end of the channel section is equal to or larger than a width of the rail section" and "moving, in a substantially continuous motion, a roller type tool in longitudinal direction of and on the exterior of the channel section, the roller type tool having rollers arranged on opposing sides of the channel section, the rollers having outwardly projecting knobs to be pressed onto the joint".

The combination of Heglund and Hard fails to teach the above limitations because Heglund and Hard fail to disclose (1) that the channel section is provided with an inner wall taper and (2) that the joining process is continuous and includes using knobs to form spot strengthened areas.

Heglund discloses a mast having extended mast elements. However, Heglund is silent regarding how a joint between two of the mast elements is established. Prior to the present invention, a standard procedure in connecting mast elements was to force the rail laterally into the channels to create a friction joint. For example page 4, lines 1-2 of Heglund discloses that a profile and complimentary profile are joined by friction/retaining. Page 7, line 31-36 and page 8, lines 4-8 describe the stiffening elements 9 and fastening profile 4. However, there is no indication of a method for establishing a corner joint in Heglund. Accordingly, Heglund fails to disclose recites "providing the channel section with inwardly tapered inner wall sections formed during the extrusion process of forming the extruded mast elements" and "moving, in a substantially continuous motion, a roller type tool in longitudinal direction of and on the exterior of the channel section, the roller type tool having rollers arranged on opposing sides of the channel section, the rollers having outwardly projecting knobs to be pressed onto the joint", as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Hard fails to teach or suggest what Heglund lacks. Hard discloses a metallic truss for woven wire mattresses and metallic bedsteads. According to Hard, the truss is made of two vertical pieces A and two horizontal plates B, which are not identical (see page 1, lines 86-94 of Hard). Neither of the pieces is initially provided with a channel. Rather, the horizontal plate edges are bent around the flanges of the vertical plate A. Hard fails to disclose rollers that form the joint. Rather, the rollers disclosed by Hard at page 2, lines 38 et seq. are used to move the entire assembled truss and not to form the joint. Accordingly, the combination of Heglund and Hard fails to disclose recites "providing the channel section with inwardly tapered inner wall sections formed during the extrusion process of forming the extruded mast elements" and "moving, in a substantially continuous motion, a roller type tool in longitudinal direction of and

on the exterior of the channel section, the roller type tool having rollers arranged on opposing sides of the channel section, the rollers having outwardly projecting knobs to be pressed onto the joint", as expressly recited in independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-13, and 18-22, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Applicant notes that Aida was not added to cure the deficiencies of the primary references discussed above but to show additional limitations. Even if Aida were to show the additional limitations it is purported to show, the additional limitations do not cure the deficiencies discussed above.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to resolve any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, if any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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